

April 5, 2006

When WalMart (with Lowe's) came to the town next to mine, we lost our only grocery store within a matter of months. We lost our hardware store, and two towns near us also lost very nice locally owned hardware stores. About 15 min away from me, we lost the areas largest locally owned nursery/garden/feed store when WalMart bought the property and said they were going to build on it. Years later, the property sits empty--I guess they just didn't want any competition. They have also built in several communities in my region where there was ardent opposition from the residents. Apparently local citizens can't trump the world's largest corporation in our democracy.

WalMart is famous for getting state and local governments to subsidize their poverty wage jobs and destruction of open spaces with tax breaks, expensive road projects, health care, and food stamp benefits for their employees. They are also well-documented as having repeatedly engaged in illegal activities, such as encouraging workers to work off the clock, changing their time sheets, hiring undocumented workers, discriminating against women and minorities, violating environmental laws, and over-the-top union busting activities.

Whatever you do, please do not allow this outrageously powerful, outlaw corporation with obvious conflicts of interest into the banking business.

Very Sincerely Yours,

Brenda Jean Searcy